

## PARENT FACT SHEET

### ESTABLISHING A MASSACHUSETTS BIRTH CERTIFICATE FOR A CHILD BORN ABROAD ADOPTED BY MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENTS

#### **Record of Birth Outside of Commonwealth MA Resident**

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts may establish a birth certificate for a child born abroad after the child is legally adopted by Massachusetts legal residents (Sec. 1B, Chapter. 46). The adoption need not take place in Massachusetts. However, this process of establishing an Out of Commonwealth record is not automatic and is subject to the parents filing the appropriate evidence with the city or town clerk in the community in which they resided at the time the adoption was finalized.

**Foreign-born Adoption** These are children born in a foreign country and adopted by a Massachusetts resident. Parents must obtain and present necessary evidence e.g. proof of residency of the parents for the year of the adoption, a certified copy of the adoption certificate, R-891 from Probate Court. If the child was not adopted in Massachusetts, but in a foreign country, the original adoption certificate with a notarized translation would be required. Other evidence could include an attested copy of the immigration and naturalization certificate, a resident alien card, a passport or a Certificate of Citizenship.

#### **City/ town clerk role:**

- Make an attested copy of the child's foreign birth certificate, naturalization papers or forms from Immigration and Naturalization and return it to the parents so the child may always have that document.
- Keep the original of the notarized translation of the foreign birth certificate and an attested copy of the original birth certificate to be sent with the Out of Commonwealth Birth form to the Registry of Vital Records and Statistics.
- Send the original adoption certificate, form R-891. (If additional copies of the adoption certificate are necessary, these should be obtained from the court where the adoption took place).
- The city/town clerk will require proof of residence for the year of adoption, e.g. street lists or voter registration, city/town census.
- The city/town clerk will then record the birth and issue a certified copy of a Record of Birth Outside of Commonwealth after approval by RVRs and with receipt of the appropriate fee, which is locally determined.
- All interested parties should keep in mind that this birth certificate in no way constitutes proof of citizenship for children born abroad.
- If you have any problems recording the birth of a child born abroad, first contact your city or town clerk. If you have additional questions, you may also contact:

Registry of Vital Records and Statistics  
Registration Unit,  
150 Mount Vernon St.  
Dorchester, MA 02125  
617-740-2603  
E-mail: [vital.regulation@state.ma.us](mailto:vital.regulation@state.ma.us)